

In the claims:

Please cancel claim 4 without prejudice and without disclaimer as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising ~~at least 24 contiguous bases of the~~ nucleotide sequence ~~first disclosed in~~ of SEQ ID NO:1.

2. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence that:

- (a) encodes the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2; and
- (b) hybridizes ~~under stringent conditions~~ to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or the complement thereof under highly stringent conditions of 0.5 M NaHPO₄, 7% sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS) and 1 mM EDTA at 65°C and washing in 0.1x SSC/0.1% SDS at 68°C.

3. (Original) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding the amino acid sequence described in SEQ ID NO:2.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (New) An expression vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 3.

6. (New) The expression vector of claim 5, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

7. (New) A host cell comprising the expression vector of claim 5.